

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 95-717-C - ORDER NO. 95-964 ✓
APRIL 25, 1995

IN RE: Request of Teltrust Communications)	ORDER
Services, Inc. for Approval of)	APPROVING
Revisions to its SC PSC Tariff)	TARIFF
No. 1 to Introduce Teltrust Debit)	REVISIONS AND
Card Service and Teltrust IXC Debit)	INTRODUCTION OF
Card Service (Ref: TN 95-96).)	DEBIT CARD

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Teltrust Communications Services, Inc. (Teltrust or the Company) for approval of revisions to its South Carolina Public Service Commission Tariff No. 1 in the form of Tariff No. 95-96. The tariff filing introduces a Debit Card Service to the Teltrust tariff.

Intervening in the tariff was Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company (Southern Bell). Southern Bell and Teltrust later entered into a Stipulation, which was filed with the Commission. The Stipulation provided as follows:

- (1) Any grant of authority shall clearly be for interLATA services and such intraLATA services as contemplated by PSC Order No. 93-462, dated June 3, 1993.
- (2) Teltrust represents that the services for which it seeks authority through this Application are not intended to be used to complete local calls. Teltrust agrees that it is not seeking authority in this docket to authorize it to complete local

calls. Further, Teltrust agrees that it will not use either this Stipulation or the services specified in the tariffs filed in the above-captioned docket as grounds upon which to argue before this Commission that Teltrust should be authorized to transport and complete local calls. Teltrust represents that it will not market, advertise, encourage, or offer its services to be used as a method of transporting and completing local calls.

- (3) Teltrust affirms that, at this time, it cannot prevent the completion of local calls on its network by customers using the services specified in the tariffs filed in the above-captioned docket. For this reason, Teltrust cannot stipulate that its customers will not complete local calls using its services. Therefore, Teltrust may bill for completion of local calls and collect the revenues therefore. When it becomes technically and practically possible for Teltrust to implement blocking of local call completion using the services of Teltrust, Teltrust will implement such blocking until such time as it has obtained authority from the South Carolina Public Service Commission to transport and complete local calls.

Southern Bell agreed to withdraw its intervention in this Docket upon acceptance of the Stipulation by the Commission.

According to the tariff, the Teltrust Debit Card Service will allow customers (1) to place direct dialed calls from locations other than their normal place of business or residence or (2) to receive inbound calls from authorized users by means of a personal 800 number. The tariff states that charges for calls placed or received using the Debit Card Services will be deducted from the available balance on the customer's Company-issued prepaid Debit Card. Further, the tariff provides that usage charges will apply to all Debit Card Service calls.

To place a Debit Card Service direct dialed call, the customer will dial an 800 access number to reach the Teltrust network. A customer-specific authorization code must be entered in addition to the destination telephone number.

To place a Debit Card Service 800 number call, the authorized user (or calling party) will dial a customer-specific 800 number and will enter a customer-specific authorization code. Both the 800 number and the authorization code must be provided by the customer to any authorized users.

The tariff filing states that the Teltrust IXC Debit Service is an intrastate resale long distance service offered to customers for the transmission of customer-provided Debit Card Services. The Teltrust IXC Debit Service is designed for use by other carriers who, in turn, use the service for completion of Debit Card calls placed by their end users. An 800 access number must be dialed by the customer's user to reach the Teltrust network, and an authorization code must be dialed in addition to the destination telephone number. The customer is then billed for service based on the volume of calls placed by the customer's users, and usage charges apply to all calls placed using IXC Debit Service. The tariff also provides that volume discounts may apply.

The Commission has examined this matter and believes that the tariff changes proposed by Teltrust are and will be beneficial to the public in South Carolina. The Commission believes that Teltrust should be allowed to revise its tariff to include the provision of Debit Card Services. The Commission also approves the

Stipulation between Southern Bell and Teltrust which was filed in this Docket.

With regard to Teltrust Debit Card, the Commission believes that Teltrust should post a bond prior to offering its Debit Card Services. Due to the nature of the service proposed by Teltrust where a subscriber must pay for services before the services are rendered, the Commission has consistently required non-facilities based carriers to post a bond for the protection of the subscribers in South Carolina until such time as the Company has had the opportunity to demonstrate its stability through operations in this State. Therefore, the Commission requires as a condition to offering the Debit Card Services in South Carolina, that Teltrust post a bond with the Commission by delivering to the Commission Certificates of Deposit in the amount of \$5,000.00. The Certificates of Deposit shall be drawn in the name of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, and shall be drawn on federal or state chartered banks or savings and loan associations which maintain an office in this State, and whose accounts are insured by either the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. After twelve (12) months from the date of this Order, the Commission will review the Company's financial reports and operations in this State and will reassess the requirement of Teltrust maintaining this bond.

DOCKET NO. 95-717-C - ORDER NO. 95-964
APRIL 25, 1995
PAGE 5

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further
Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)